Delay by States in utilising funds for PMGSY

856. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that States are delaying in the utilisation of funds allotted by Government for laying of roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana;

(b) if so, details of funds allotted and utilised so far under the scheme in Orissa; and

(c) the fresh steps taken to check misuse or diversion of allotted funds under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Project proposals to the tune of Rs. 7553.28 crore have, so far, been cleared under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and the works are in various stages of execution; 7221 of the 12867 road works taken up in the year 2000-2001 have since been completed and others are expected to be completed by December, 2002. The road works cleared in the year 2001 - 2002 have commenced in most States and are also expected, by and large, to be completed during the current year.

As for Orissa, project proposals for Rs. 529.70 crore have been cleared and, of Rs. 354.70 crore released to the Sate, an expenditure of Rs. 93.78 crore has, so far, been incurred. Government of Orissa has reported that they have invoked the Penal Clause in certain contracts and have also initiated action to rescind the Contract and black-list/suspend the license of defaulting contractors. No case of misuse or diversion of allotted funds has been reported from Orissa.

Proposal to provide funds for development directly to District Council Panchayat Committee

857. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide funds meant for development directly to District Council Panchayat Committee for rural development; tOriginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government propose to constitute any committee to keep a watch on utilisation and misuse of this amount; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) Funds under various schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development are released either to the State Government or to the District Panchayats/District Rural Development Agencies.

(b) and (c) All the States and Union Territories have been advised to constitute Vigilance and Monitoring Committees at State, District and Block levels to supervise, exercise vigilance and monitor the implementation of various Programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development. Such Committees have been constituted at all the three levels in all the States.

Validity of forming construction committees to Implement rural development in Assam

858. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether formation of construction committee to implement various tural development works with few elected panchayats', representatives of ruling party as its members is permissible in Panchayati Raj institutions as now practiced in Assam;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, the action taken thereupon?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) to (c) In the absence of Panchayati Raj institutions, the State Government implemented the schemes through committees at various levels involving officials, public representatives, stakeholders and beneficiaries. However, after the constitution of the Panchayati Raj Institutions, orders have been issued to involve Panchayati Raj Institutions in the implementation of the schemes strictly as per the Guidelines formulated for the programmes.